



Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198
ph 651.296.4026 | fx 651.297.7891
mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities

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NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON IMPACTS TO BE EVALUATED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT TO BE PREPARED FOR XCEL ENERGY'S COMPETITIVE RESOURCES ACQUISITION PROPOSALS

**In the Matter of the Petition of Northern State Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for
Approval of Competitive Resources Acquisition Proposal and Certificate of Need Docket**

PUC Docket No. E002/CN-12-1240

Comment Period: Comment period closes **July 10, 2013**, at 4:30 pm.

Topics Open for Comment:

- Impacts to be evaluated in the Environmental Report (ER) to be prepared by the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) for Xcel Energy's Competitive Resources Acquisition Process.

Submit Public comments: Suzanne Lamb Steinhauer
Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
Fax: 651-297-7891 (651-539-1549 after July 1, 2013)
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

Comments may also be submitted on the Department's website:
<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33228>

Project Background: The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has initiated a Competitive Resource Acquisition Process through which it will select resources to meet the need identified in Xcel Energy's 2010 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).

Review Process: The Commission accepted proposals from Xcel Energy, Calpine Corporation, Invenergy, Geronimo Energy, and Great River Energy at its meeting on June 6, 2013.

In its review the Commission will consider the following alternatives:

- Xcel Energy's proposed three 215 MW combustion turbine gas generators with a total capacity of 645 MW. One of the proposed locations would be located at Xcel Energy's existing Black Dog plant in Burnsville. The two additional turbines would be built near Hankinson, North Dakota;
- Calpine Corporation's proposed natural gas combustion turbine and a heat recovery steam generator with a total capacity of 345 MW in Mankato;
- Invenenergy's proposed three 178.5 MW natural gas combustion turbines, one in Cannon Falls and two in Dakota County or Scott County, for a combined capacity of 535.5 MW;
- Geronimo Energy's up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 31 sites across Minnesota; and
- Great River Energy's MISO Zone 1 Resource Credits for capacity only.

The proposals will be weighed against each other in a formal evidentiary proceeding based on the certificate of need statute and rules. The Commission has referred this matter to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for contested case proceedings. At the conclusion of the process, the Commission is expected to select one or some combination of the proposed alternatives to meet Xcel Energy's identified need. This proceeding is the only proceeding in which the no-build alternative and the size, type, timing, system configuration, and voltage will be considered.

Environmental Review: As part of the review process the Commission has requested the Department of Commerce to prepare an ER evaluating the proposals under consideration. An ER examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternatives to the project, and potential mitigating measures for anticipated adverse impacts.

The resource acquisition process required the solicitation of actual proposed alternatives to Xcel Energy's proposed project. The Commission has determined that due to the nature of the bidding process, combined with the analysis completed in the IRP docket, the proposed alternatives and a no-build alternative for each should comprise the scope of alternatives to be evaluated in the ER for this docket.

The ER will, at minimum, address the impacts identified in Minnesota Rule 7849.1500, subpart 2 (air emissions, visibility impacts, ozone, fuel availability and fuel transportation, electric transmission facilities associated with each proposal, water appropriations, amount and types of wastewater discharges, solid and hazardous wastes, anticipated noise). The Department welcomes comments on specific impacts or mitigation measures to be evaluated for each alternative.

Following the conclusion of the comment period, the Department will issue a scope identifying the impacts to be evaluated in the ER for the proposals under consideration. The Department anticipates that the ER will be available in the fall of 2013.

Eminent Domain: Depending upon the alternative or alternatives selected by the Commission, Xcel may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for its proposed projects pursuant to Minnesota Statute §216E.12.

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (12) and the docket number (1240), select "Search."

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts.

Department of Commerce Project Website: Select documents related to the proposed alternatives can be located on the Department's website:
<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33228>

Paper copies of the resource proposals are also available at the Department of Commerce for review.

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about this project. Contact the Commission or Department staff members assigned to this docket (see below) or visit <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#mailing> to sign up for the project mailing list.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff member, Tricia DeBleeckere (651-201-2254, tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us).

Questions about Environmental Review? Contact Department staff member, Suzanne Steinhauer (651-296-2888, (651-539-1843 after July 1, 2013), suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us).

This document can be made available in alternative formats; i.e. large print or audio tape by calling 651-296-0391 (651-539-1530 after July 1, 2013).